

D1

material; and

d: returning the membrane to ambient temperature.

Please add the following claims:

D2 --25. A method of operating a polymer electrolyte membrane cell at elevated temperatures equipped with a membrane conditioned by claim 12 comprising supplying an oxygen containing gas at the cathod<sup>e</sup> and supplying a fuel selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, reformat<sup>e</sup>, methanol and ethanol.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the fuel contains carbon monoxide and the operating temperature is at least 100°C.--

Cancel claim 17.

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 12 to 16, 6, 23, 25 and 26, all other claims having been cancelled. The Examiner's objection to claim 1 is believed to be directed to claim 12 and the Examiner's suggestion has been adopted. If Applicants' assumption is not correct, it is requested that the Examiner clarify the objection.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in the use of "said temperature" since there were several temperatures in claim 12. Claim 17 has been cancelled.